

2019 Generation Homes RotarySwimmarathon

The second annual RotarySwimmarathon, jointly managed by the Rotary Clubs of Orewa, Whangaparaoa and Satellite Orewa-Millwater, NZ, more than doubled the number of teams and swimmers that participated in the 2018 event.

Forty-seven teams and 274 competitors swam a total of 7038 laps (175.95km, or the equivalent of Auckland CBD to Tirau) and raised a total of \$22,400.

Rodney MP Mark Mitchell led Team Platypus, comprising family members, and later swam in support of a young team short of swimmers.



"I salute these great Rotarians for all they do for our local charities," Mark said. "We are surrounded by water, so it is particularly appropriate that the named charities (Red Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Orewa Surf Life Saving Club, Orewa Sea Scouts and Hibiscus Coast Guard) are the principal recipients of the money raised."

Generation Homes came on board this year as naming sponsor and provided event T-shirts for all swimmers, plus polo shirts for the

organising Rotary team, and two shields for the best fundraising teams. They also donated \$3000 in cash to the event.

Lane sponsors were Hopper Developments, OPSM Silverdale, Silverdale Family Dentists, Forrest Funeral Services, Clarkson Electrical, Maygrove Village and Bayleys Real Estate. Medals were co-sponsored by Whangaparaoa Dental Services and Inmarsat Global plc. Community sponsors were New World Whangaparaoa and Love to Travel, while Signpost Signs of Silverdale provided sponsored signage.

The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board of Auckland Council generously provided use of the venue free of charge, with professional photography and videography provided gratis by Paul Conroy (Portraits by Design) and Dave Coles (oveflo).

Cheques and awards were presented to the worthy winners on August 10 at Rotary House in Silverdale, Auckland. Hibiscus and Bays Local Board chair Julia Parfitt and deputy chair Janet Fitzgerald were guests of honour and presented cheques for \$4500 each to Orewa Surf Life Saving Club,



“Forty-seven teams and 274 competitors of all ages and abilities swam a total of 7038 laps at the second annual RotarySwimarathon.”

Red Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Orewa Sea Scouts and Hibiscus Coast Guard. In addition, Generation Homes RotarySwimarathon chair Brian Mullan presented cheques for \$1000 each to Youth in Transition, I Got Your Back Pack, and the Life Education Trust.

The Basil Blackham Memorial Challenge Cup was awarded to Orewa Sharks, who swam the highest number of competitive lengths in 45 minutes (185). Shields and certificates were presented by Generation Homes MD Peter Suckling to the two teams that raised the most in sponsorship, adult and junior: Satellite Stars, who raised \$1996, and Charlie's Angels, who raised \$1055.

Certificate awards were made to Best Supported Team (Happy Feet); Most Amusing Team Name (Eat My Bubbles); and to Stanmore Bay Pool and Leisure Centre aquatics manager Martin French.

RotarySwimarathon committee chair Brian Mullan thanked all the sponsors and said, “In addition to the \$21,000 we have just awarded, we have also made a donation of \$1400 to Hibiscus Men's Shed, who produced the top-quality easels and photo frame for us. It was the generosity of all the sponsors that has allowed Rotary to fulfil its pledge that every cent of every dollar raised by the swimmers would be donated to charity.” •

